

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 226

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. J. Lawrence Turner on the occasion of his twenty-fifth anniversary in ministry and his tenth anniversary as senior pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to ministry and have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. J. Lawrence Turner, who has distinguished himself as a citizen of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity and as a pastor of supreme tact and learning; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Turner will soon celebrate his twenty-fifth year in ministry and his tenth year of pastoral service at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Turner accepted his call to ministry as senior pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church on January 13, 2013; prior to serving the communities of Memphis, he was pastor of the Community Baptist Church in New Haven, Connecticut, for seven years; and

WHEREAS, a Nashville native, Dr. Turner received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion and Philosophy from Fisk University in 2003, graduating *magna cum laude*; he was a 2001 United Negro College Fund/Mellon Foundation undergraduate fellow and a 2002 fellow of the Fund for Theological Education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Turner received a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School, and he was awarded the prestigious H.H. Tweedy Prize for exceptional promise to pastoral leadership; he subsequently earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Transformative Leadership from the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York; and

WHEREAS, his excellence in leadership is demonstrated through his service as a member of the executive committee of the Memphis Christian Pastors Network and the board of trustees at Church Health and Perea Preschool; he is also a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Turner additionally served as president of the Yale Divinity School student council, vice president of the Connecticut State Missionary Baptist Convention, chairman of the board of commissioners of the Housing Authority for New Haven, and secretary of the board of directors of the National Action Network; and

WHEREAS, he is the faithful founder and president of the Black Clergy Collaborative of Memphis, an organization with a devout commitment to expressing church voices and issues regarding economic empowerment, civic engagement, and criminal justice reform; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Turner was selected for the 2021 Power 100 list by the *Memphis Business Journal*, an honor that identifies the most influential people in the Memphis area making a distinct impact on local and regional business; and

WHEREAS, aside from his many professional accomplishments, Dr. Turner is wholly committed to family values of the highest order; his faith and devotion were shaped by his proud parents, Donzetta Webb and the late Revered James C. Turner, Sr., who had also served as a senior pastor; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and support of his wife, Bridgett Nicole Bush Turner, and their cherished children, Josiah Lawrence and Savannah Grace Turner; and

WHEREAS, a loving father, shepherd, leader, and friend, Dr. Turner epitomizes the spirit and dedication that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he should be specially recognized for his many accomplishments and devoted ministry work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Dr. J. Lawrence Turner upon the occasion of his twenty-fifth anniversary in ministry, commend him on his ten-year anniversary as senior pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, and extend to him our best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.